## Reasons to Become a Smoke-free Restaurant

Smoke-free policies do not hurt business and sometimes boost it according to many recent studies based on sales tax data and sound research methods. Smoke-free policies increase patronage by nonsmokers and compensate for any initial drop in patronage by smokers by almost 2.5 times (Cornell School of Hotel and Restaurant Administration). Tourist volume and hotel revenue did not drop in cities with smoke-free restaurant laws (JAMA, 1999).

Most smokers accept smoke-free policies since 70% of all smokers want to quit smoking (National Cancer Institute). Most smokers don't have difficulty refraining from smoking for an hour or two. Most smokers continue patronizing smoke-free restaurants according to surveys in California, New York, Wisconsin, and Texas.

More than half of all Americans choose smoke-free restaurants over ones that allow smoking (National Restaurant Assoc. Survey, 1993).

You have less risk of lawsuits from employees who become ill from working in the smoking section and less risk of disability claims (National Restaurant Association).

It may be easier to obtain insurance because some insurance companies look more favorably on smoke-free policies.



Waiters and waitresses have a 50-90% increased risk of lung cancer that is most likely caused by restaurant tobacco smoke. After California law banned smoking in workplaces, bartenders reported a significant drop in respiratory problems and showed improved lung function.

Source: JAMA, 1993; JAMA, 1998.

To nominate a smoke-free restaurant, contact:

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Commit to your health.